CHARLTON COMICS
BILLY THE KID
"BADLANDS QUEEN"
NO. 66 MAY CDC
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12¢

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1 Pinto
1 Mustang
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1 Tan Paint
1 Brown Paint
1 Black Paint
Directions for painting Horses 4"x6"

Three Exciting Horses Fun to Paint, Play With, and Collect

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Now you can collect exciting models of the finest horses on the Big J Ranch. You will receive by return mail Dorado the firey palomino, Patch the pinto, and Thunderbolt the speedy mustang. It is great fun to paint them and then to play with them. Send now for your three firey stallions.

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BADLAND'S QUEEN
PART I
THE WOMAN'S SCREAM IS STILL ECHOING OFF THE RAW CLAPBOARDS OF SWEETGRASS FLATS... BILLY BONNEY WAS JUST CHECKING OUT OF THE HASTILY BUILT TWO-STORY HOTEL WHEN HE HEARD IT AND HE REACHED THE STREET IN TIME TO SEE THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN HIT THE GROUND, THE GUNSLINGER WHEELS... STEEL GLINTS IN HIS HAND AND BLOSSOMS INTO FLAME AS DEATH WHISTLES AN INCH AWAY FROM THE KID'S HEAD... HE KNOWS THE NEXT SLUG WILL BE FROM HIS OWN .45!
I KNOWED YUH'D BUT IN BONNEY! THIS IS FER... UNGH!
BLAM
YUH'RE LONG OVERDUE, WISTER!
BILLY THE KID
B-1177

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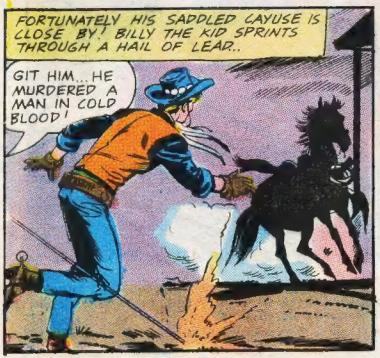
nomscans~HaCsA~

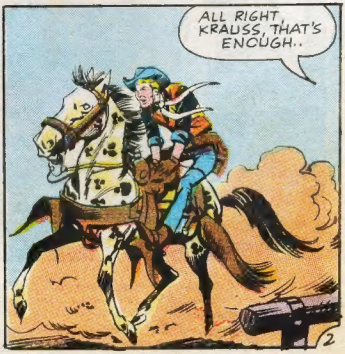
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS THORPE? WISTER MUST'VE HIT YOU BEFORE I CAME OUTSIDE... THEN HE THREW A SHOT AT ME... ALMOST GOT ME TOO!
HE SHOT AT YOU, MR BONNEY? THAT'S FUNNY...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN FUNNY? THERE'S NOTHIN' FUNNY ABOUT ALMOST GETTIN' KILLED!
YUH SHOT WISTER DOWN IN COLD BLOOD! I'LL TAKE YORE IRON!
THAT'S WHY I SAID IT WAS FUNNY!

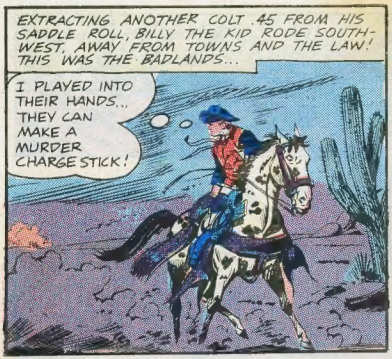
YOU SEE... WISTER WASN'T WEARING A WEAPON.
ARE YUH LOCO, MA'AM? HE SHOT AT ME! HE...

BONNEY MURDERED WISTER... LET'S STRING HIM UP!
THEY'LL LYNCH YOU, MR. BONNEY! YOU'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!

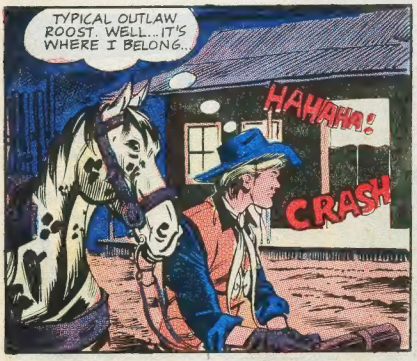

FORTUNATELY HIS SADDLED CAYUSE IS CLOSE BY! BILLY THE KID SPRINTS THROUGH A HAIL OF LEAD..
GIT HIM... HE MURDERED A MAN IN COLD BLOOD!


ALL RIGHT, KRAUSS, THAT'S ENOUGH..

I THOUGHT MY SLUG HIT HIM HIGH ...AND I KNOW HE HAD A GUN IN HIS FIST!
SWEETGRASS TOWN TOP SPEED
THOSE RIDGERUNNERS STRIPPED OFF HIS GUNS WHILE I WAS HELPIN' THE GIRL!
THE CITIZENS OF SWEETGRASS SAW THE VICTIM CARRIED AWAY.. THEY STAYED INDOORS AS WELL-ARMED TOUGHS DID THESE THINGS WITH LUCY THORPE RIGHT THERE WATCHING EVERYTHING SOME OF THEM INSPECTED THE DARKENING SPOTS WHERE THE MAN HAD BLED.. AND THEY WERE CONVINCED A MAN HAD DIED HERE. NOW THE SHERIFF HEARD THE STORY!
WHERE'S THE BODY?
HIS FOLKS TOOK HIM TO THEIR RANCH.. HE'LL BE BURIED THERE!
I RECKON BILL BONNEY'LL STAND TRIAL FOR DOIN' MURDER THEN! I'LL HAVE THE PRINTER PRINT UP A DODGER OFFERIN' $500 REWARD, DEAD OR ALIVE!
R. ZALLA PRINTER
GIVE THE BOYS COPIES OF THIS. MAKE SURE BONNEY KNOWS HE'S WANTED FOR MURDER.
WANTED
DEAD OR ALIVE
for
MURDER
WILLIAM BONNEY
ALIAS "BILLY THE KID"
$500.
REWARD
3


EXTRACTING ANOTHER COLT .45 FROM HIS SADDLE ROLL, BILLY THE KID RODE SOUTH-WEST, AWAY FROM TOWNS AND THE LAW! THIS WAS THE BADLANDS...
I PLAYED INTO THEIR HANDS... THEY CAN MAKE A MURDER CHARGE STICK!

IT WAS A LONG, PARCHING DAY AND WHEN AT DUSK HE SIGHTED LIGHTS AHEAD, HE TURNED IN THEIR DIRECTION.
I HEARD THERE WAS A GENERAL STORE 'AN SALOON UP IN THIS CAN-YON... PROB'LY AN OWLHOOT HANGOUT.


TYPICAL OUTLAW ROOST. WELL...IT'S WHERE I BELONG..
HAHAHA!
CRASH

I'M AN OUTLAW TOO!
LOOK! IT'S BILLY THE KID!

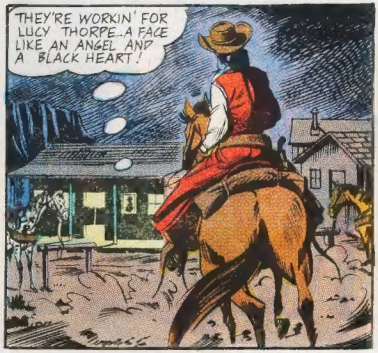
WANTED MEN ARE TOUCHY AT TIMES... THIS TIME A MAN CURSED AS HE SLASHED DOWN FOR HIS GUN...
YUH'RE TOO JUMPY, KELLY! YUH'RE LUCKY BONNEY DIDN'T NAIL YUH WHILE YUH WERE GOIN' FOR THAT IRON!
YOU'RE NOT TAKIN' ME TUH JAIL KID!
I'M NOT RIDIN' FOR THE LAW NOW!
4

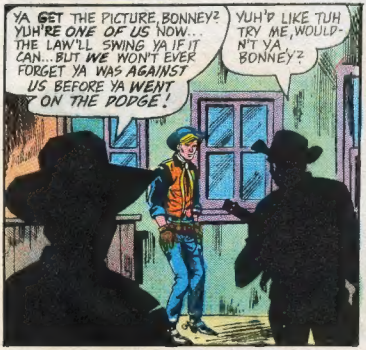
JUST KEEP AWAY FROM ME, BONNEY!
A PLEASURE, POLECAT! BUT I GOT A WORD OF ADVICE...
SOCK!
DON'T EVER PULL A GUN ON ME! I'M A MITE TOUCHY ABOUT THAT.. EVEN IF I AM ON THE RUN!
I'LL TRY SOME OF THAT GINGER BEER, BARKEEP.
MEN QUARRELED, A GUN ROARED, BUT BILLY THE KID WAS LEFT ALONE! AFTER A TIME HE PULLED OUT A CHAIR AND NODDED AT THE DEALER TO GIVE HIM CARDS...
SOME MEN WASTE THEIR TIME IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
YOUR BET, BONNEY.
I BET FIFTY, BONNEY.
I'LL CALL, DEALER. BUT I WANT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING..
...THE KING OF SPADES BETTER NOT BE IN YOUR HAND BECAUSE I GOT A GLIMPSE OF IT ON THE BOTTOM OF THE DECK WHEN YOU CUT THE CARDS. I GOT TWO LOW PAIR!
Y-YOU WIN, BILLY. I WAS B-BLUFFIN'.
5

THERE WAS CASH MONEY IN THE ROOM AND BILLY THE KID HADN'T HEARD OF ANY BIG HOLD-UPS ANYWHERE RECENTLY... SO HE ASKED...
WE DID A FEW CHORES FOR MISS LUCY, BONNEY. SHE PAYS REAL GOOD.
MISS LUCY? WHAT KINDA JOBS?

NO HARM IN TELLIN', BONNEY. LUCY THORPE BOUGHT UP MOSTA THIS VALLEY. THEM AS WON'T SELL RIGHT OFF GITS SHOT UP, BURNED OUT OR SKEERED INTUH BOOT HILL!
UH HUH. A LAND GRAB.

THEY RIGGED A NOOSE FOR ME WHEN THEY TOOK AWAY THE DEAD MAN'S GUNS... TURNIN' SELF-DEFENSE INTO A FIRST DEGREE MURDER CHARGE!

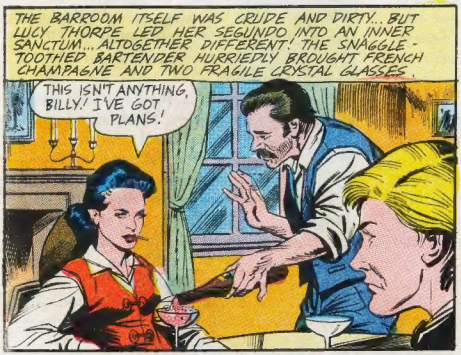

THEY'RE WORKIN' FOR LUCY THORPE..A FACE LIKE AN ANGEL AND A BLACK HEART!


YA GET THE PICTURE, BONNEY? YUH'RE ONE OF US NOW... THE LAW'LL SWING YA IF IT CAN...BUT WE WON'T EVER FORGET YA WAS AGAINST US BEFORE YA WENT ON THE DODGE!
YUH'D LIKE TUH TRY ME, WOULDN'T YA BONNEY?

YEAH... I WOULD.
BLAM!

INTO THE STUNNED SILENCE FOLLOWING COLT THUNDER, LUCY THORPE STEPPED... SMILING AT HER RECRUIT.
NICE SHOOTING, BILLY. IT WAS WORTH A GOOD MAN TO GET YOU ON MY SIDE!

I WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW... BILLY THE KID GIVES THE ORDERS AROUND HERE FROM NOW ON! ANYONE STUPID ENOUGH TO TALK BACK WILL WIND UP WITH WHAT GUFFY GOT!


THE BARROOM ITSELF WAS CRUDE AND DIRTY.. BUT LUCY THORPE LED HER SEGUNDO INTO AN INNER SANCTUM... ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT! THE SNAGGLE-TOOTHED BARTENDER HURRIEDLY BROUGHT FRENCH CHAMPAGNE AND TWO FRAGILE CRYSTAL GLASSES.
THIS ISN'T ANYTHING, BILLY! I'VE GOT PLANS!

I'M GOING TO HAVE THE BIGGEST, RICHEST RANCH IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY! I'M GOING TO BE A QUEEN! HERE'S TO US, WILLIAM BONNEY...

I'LL BE QUEEN... AND YOU'LL BE MY KING.
BEING KING AIN'T MY LINE OF WORK, YOUR HIGHNESS! I DON'T THINK I'LL...

I DIDN'T ASK YOU COWBOY! I'M TELLIN' YOU!
SPLUUT!
SPLING!
BANG!

A WESTERN HERO

What are the ingredients you must have in order to have a Western hero? You, of course, must have a situation in which a man rises to extreme heights of heroism. Perhaps single-handed he fights a wounded bear and saves a little child. Or he rides a long distance through hostile territory in order to get help to save the soldiers in the fort. Or he trails six rustlers and gets every one of them. But, even if you do have a situation, the man in real life must have the ability to rise to the occasion.

This is the story of Edward A. Travis, who lived a rather long life. He was born March 16, 1840 and died September 2, 1930. When he died, his estate went into the millions and he was honored as a charitable man, a legislator, a railroad executive and also as a Western hero. He was a hero for one day--you can find it in the records. And that one day, August 8, 1872, turned him into a famous man and changed the course of his life.

He fought in the War Between the States and was an excellent pistol shot. He met Major Thomas Brenning, who later organized the Brenning Firearms Company and made this proposition to him:

"The West needs good pistols and sound ammunition. I am going to supply both. You are an excellent shot. So be a salesman for me. You can give demonstrations of what can be done with a six-shooter and make your sales."

Since at that time Edward A. Travis had no family, he liked the idea of seeing the West. And when he demonstrated his pistols, he generally made several sales. On the morning of August 8, 1872, the stage brought him into the town of Prairie Crossings. After he checked into the local hotel, he noticed groups of men talking in a low tone and sensed something was wrong. He went to the sheriff's office and there he met John Crossman and his daughter Eileen. He explained what he was selling, and then the sheriff told him the news.

"I could use a man like you as my deputy. Both of my deputies resigned. Mack Henderson and his men are going to smash into here. They want to hang Jim Riley. He knows too much about what they are doing."

"And I love Jim Riley and want him alive," added the Sheriff's daughter.

So somehow Edward A. Travis found himself taking an oath and a star was pinned onto his coat. He opened his bags and put on his cartridge belt and two holsters with loaded .44's in them. Then he loaded two more pistols and stuck them underneath the belt.

It was about five in the afternoon when the mob came up to the Sheriff's office. Mack Henderson spoke his piece:

"I want that thieving, lying killer you got in the cell. We are going to string him up and save the county the trouble of giving him a trial."

Edward A Travis pushed his coat aside and went right up to Mack Henderson. "I place you under arrest for trying to incite a riot and for being a thieving, lying imitation of a man. I won't even count three. If a man on my right tries anything, I shoot his hand. If a man on my left tries anything, I shoot his leg. If I have to use a second bullet, I kill the man. Now see if I am bluffing."

For a moment the mob hesitated. The very audacity of the words held them. Then somebody shouted:

"What are we waiting for?"

It went so fast, nobody could even see how it happened. Ten shots were fired by the new wearer of a star. Four men were hit in their legs and six were hit in their feet. Mack Henderson stood rooted to the ground.

It was over almost before it had started. But when it was all over, Mack Henderson was in jail and Doc Smith had ten new patients. For years they would talk about that shooting.

So that was how a Western hero was made. The newspapers took up the story and all kinds of offers came to our hero. Yet, strange as it seems he always remained a modest man

****

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and WIN DANDY PRIZES Too!

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Hurry!

If you are a boy 12 or older

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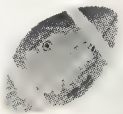
TODAY



see through walls

the man from U.N.C.L.E.

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SPY-PEN looks like an ordinary fountain pen in your pocket. Even if seen it will not be suspected as the incredible instrument with such amazing powers of penetration

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery. C.O.D. and shipping charges.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

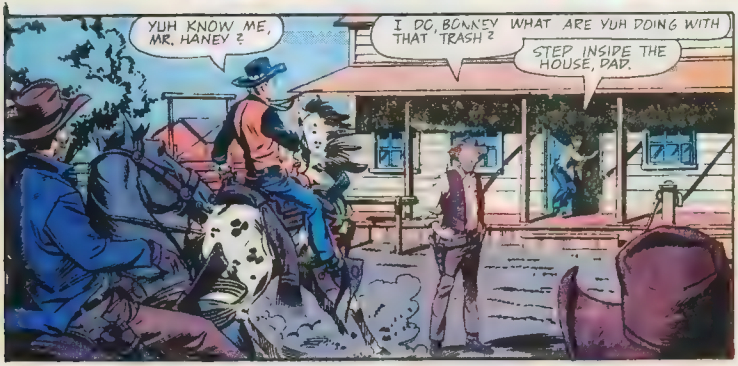
CITY & STATE _____ ZIP _____

THE COWBOY KING
PART II
IT WAS A SIMPLE YES-OR-NO PROPOSITION... WOULD HE, WILLIAM S. BONNEY, HELP HER OBTAIN AND RULE A VAST PRAIRIE KINGDOM? OR WOULD HE DIE OF AN OVERDOSE OF BUCKSHOT AND, OR A PRECISELY AIMED .32 CALIBER SLUG BETWEEN THE EYES? TO A MAN OF BILLY THE KID'S UNQUESTIONED COURAGE AND BRAINS THERE COULD BE ONLY ONE ANSWER...
WHY YES MA'AM, I'D BE PLUMB PLEASED TUH DO EXACTLY WHAT YUH SAID
I KNOW WE'RE GOING TO BE REAL HAPPY TOGETHER, COWBOY
I LIKE YOUR STYLE, BILLY.
I'M REAL GLAD THAT YUH DO, MISS LUCY!
REAL GLAD!

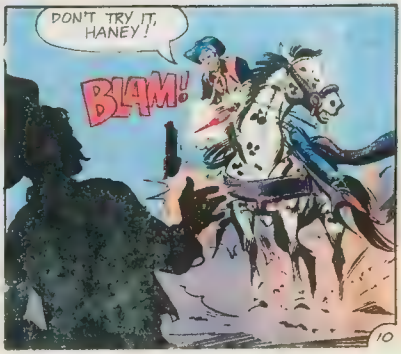
CAME DAYLIGHT AND LUCY THORPE GAVE ORDERS TO HER CUTTHROAT CREW... BUSHWACKERS, A DYNAMITER, AND LOWDOWN RUSTLERS.
BILLY WILL LEAD THREE OF YOU TO THE HANEY RANCH AND HE'LL OFFER TO BUY IT IN MY NAME. HANEY WON'T SELL, OF COURSE... BUT WHILE THEY'RE TALKING RICO WILL DYNAMITE THE BARN...
HOLD ON, MA'AM. WON'T HANEY'S MEN OPEN FIRE ON US WHEN ALL THIS STARTS TUH POP?
TNT
DANGER
NATURALLY. BUT YOU'RE A MURDERER NOW, MR BONNEY ... YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO
SHE'S A FIEND! I KILLED THAT MAN IN TOWN ON HER ACCOUNT.. NOW SHE'S USIN' THE KILLIN' TO MAKE ME KILL AGAIN!
AS THE BUCK-JUMPING BRONCS WORK OFF SOME FRISKINESS, CHANCE BROUGHT BILLY THE KID FACE TO FACE WITH THE MAN CALLED RICO..
DON'T I KNOW YOU, HOMBRE?
SI, EL CHIVITO. YOU 'AVE BEEN THROUGH MY VILLAGE MANY TIMES! NOW WE RIDE!
A MAN CAN CHANGE HATS OR EVEN THE COLOR OF HIS SKIN BUT...

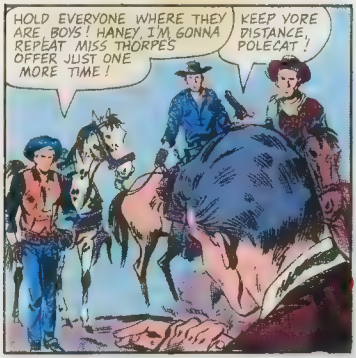
THE MEXICAN NAMED RICO WEARS HIS GUNS EXACTLY LIKE THE GENT I...
THAT GENT IS DEAD..

GENE HANEY, ONE OF THE PIONEER CATTLEMEN IN THIS PART OF THE STATE WOULDN'T SCARE.. BILLY THE KID KNEW THAT BUT HE HAD NO PLAN AS YET..
WE'RE BEHIND Y... BONNEY!
YEAH, THANKS

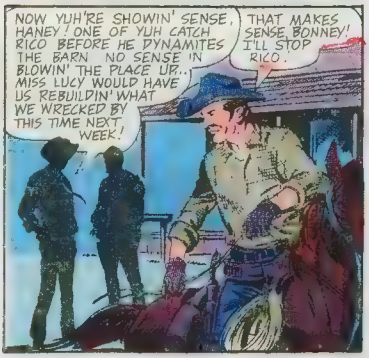

YUH KNOW ME, MR. HANEY?
I DO, BONNEY WHAT ARE YUH DOING WITH THAT TRASH?
STEP INSIDE THE HOUSE, DAD.

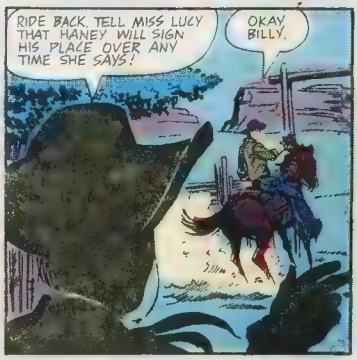
DROP IT, SONNY!
PEING!


DON'T TRY IT, HANEY!
BLAM!

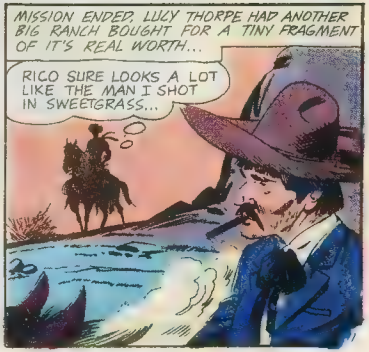

HOLD EVERYONE WHERE THEY ARE, BOYS! HANEY, I'M GONNA REPEAT MISS THORPES OFFER JUST ONE MORE TIME!
KEEP YORE DISTANCE, POLECAT!

BILLY THE KID'S LOW, CALM VOICE WAS INAUDIBLE TO HIS CREW BUT THEY COULD IMAGINE WHAT HANEY WAS BEING TOLD...
HE'D BETTER NOT BUCK BILLY THE KID OR HE'LL WIND UP UNDER THE GRASS!

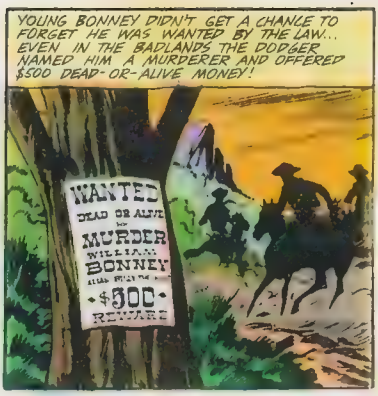

NOW YUH'RE SHOWIN' SENSE, HANEY! ONE OF YUH CATCH RICO BEFORE HE DYNAMITES THE BARN. NO SENSE IN BLOWIN' THE PLACE UP... MISS LUCY WOULD HAVE US REBUILDIN' WHAT WE WRECKED BY THIS TIME NEXT WEEK!
THAT MAKES SENSE, BONNEY! I'LL STOP RICO.

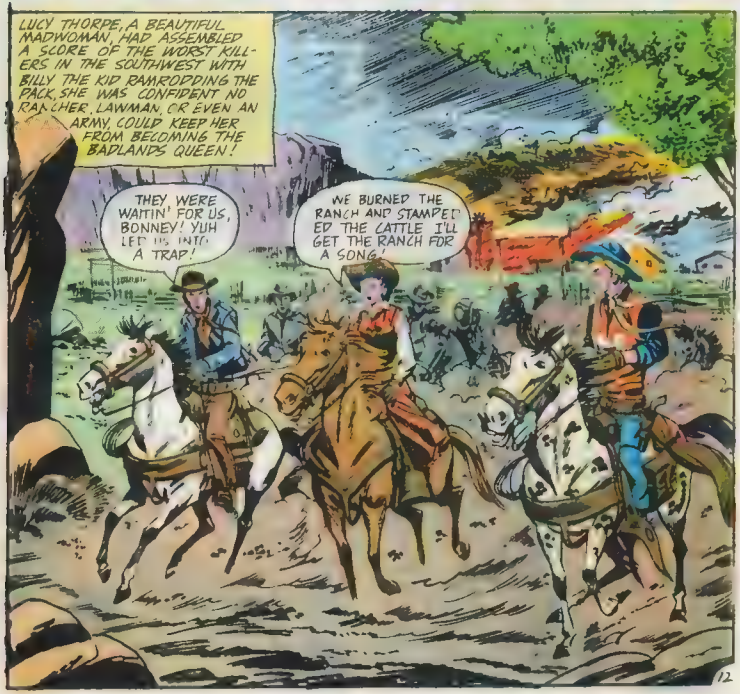

RIDE BACK. TELL MISS LUCY THAT HANEY WILL SIGN HIS PLACE OVER ANY TIME SHE SAYS!
OKAY, BILLY.

I'LL DO LIKE YUH SAID, BONNEY. MY MEN WON'T PUT UP A FIGHT WHEN MISS LUCY ARRIVES TUH TAKE TITLE.


MISSION ENDED, LUCY THORPE HAD ANOTHER BIG RANCH BOUGHT FOR A TINY FRAGMENT OF IT'S REAL WORTH...
RICO SURE LOOKS A LOT LIKE THE MAN I SHOT IN SWEETGRASS...

I COULDN'T HAVE MISSED HIM WHEN I SHOT... SO I'D BETTER QUIT THIS FOOLISHNESS!


YOUNG BONNEY DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO FORGET HE WAS WANTED BY THE LAW... EVEN IN THE BADLANDS THE DODGER NAMED HIM A MURDERER AND OFFERED $500 DEAD-OR-ALIVE MONEY!
WANTED
DEAD OR ALIVE
for
MURDER
WILLIAM
BONNEY
$500
REWARD


LUCY THORPE, A BEAUTIFUL MADWOMAN, HAD ASSEMBLED A SCORE OF THE WORST KILLERS IN THE SOUTHWEST WITH BILLY THE KID RAMRODDING THE PACK. SHE WAS CONFIDENT NO RANCHER, LAWMAN, OR EVEN AN ARMY, COULD KEEP HER FROM BECOMING THE BADLANDS QUEEN!
THEY WERE WAITIN' FOR US, BONNEY! YUH LED US INTO A TRAP!
WE BURNED THE RANCH AND STAMPEDED THE CATTLE I'LL GET THE RANCH FOR A SONG!

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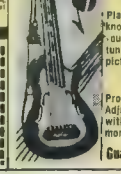

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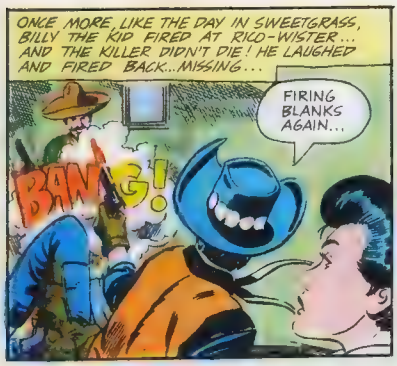
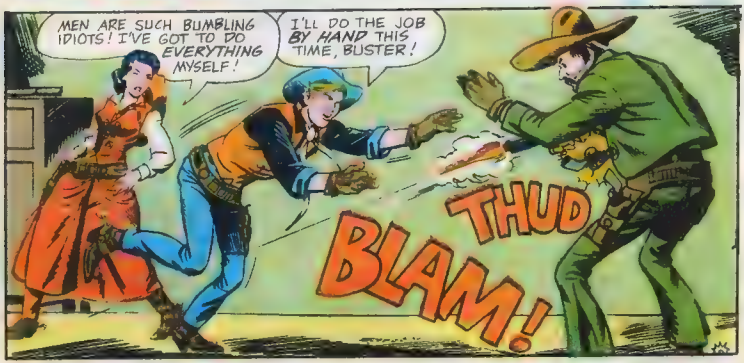
ON THE DODGE
PART III
RAMRODDING A CREW OF KILLERS, BILLY THE KID WINGED A RANCHER NAMED MORRISON AND HE KEPT THE OWLHOOT ARMY OF LUCY THORPE FROM TURNING A BUSINESS TRANSACTION INTO A SLAUGHTER! THIS WAS THE LAST HOLD-OUT AND BILLY THE KID WAS AS GLAD IT WAS OVER.. AS HE PUMPED A SLUG INTO THE MUSCLE OF AN OVEREAGER GUNSLINGER!
THAT'S IT, BILLY...KEEP 'EM IN LINE WHILE I PAY MORRISON FOR HIS TITLE!
WHY BOTHER PAYING A FEW DOLLARS WHEN THE WHOLE COUNTRY KNOW'S YOUR STEALING AN EMPIRE!
THEY MAY KNOW IT, MISTER.. BUT WHEN THEY TRY TO PROVE IT IN COURT I'LL HAVE THE DEEDS AND THE BILLS OF SALE!
DEED
LET'S RIDE, BILLY IT'S LEGAL NOW. I OWN ALL OF SWEETGRASS
YUH'RE A REMARKABLE WOMAN, MISS THORPE!

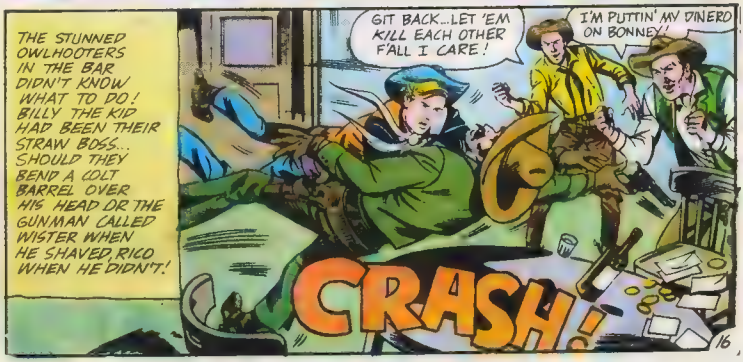
YOU'RE AN IMPORTANT PART OF MY PLANS, BILLY! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME RULE ALL THIS
CAN'T DO THAT, MA'AM I'M WANTED BY THE LAW... DEAD OR ALIVE!
OH, THAT! THE ONLY WITNESSES, BILLY, ARE ME AND HALF A DOZEN MEN WHO SING ANY TUNE I WHISTLE! I'LL HAVE THE CHARGE DISMISSED RIGHT AWAY!
SINCE YOU JOINED ME BILLY, THERE HASN'T BEEN A SINGLE KILLING.
SMARTEST THING I EVER DID WAS GET YOU ON MY SIDE
IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT, MISS THORPE I HAD THAT FIGURED A LONG TIME AGO
DEED
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BILLY?
I'VE BEEN PRETTY DUMB LUCY LET ME HAVE MY SIX GUN YOU WERE FOOLISH TO KEEP IT THERE WHERE I MIGHT FIND IT SOME DAY
DEED
14

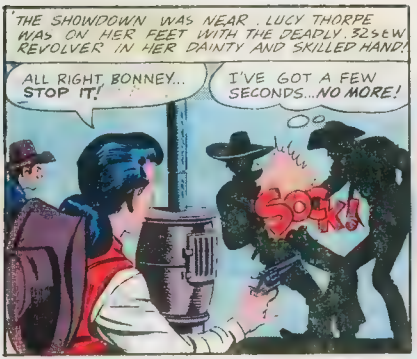
YOU'RE A FOOL, BILLY! YOU COULD'VE SHARED IT ALL WITH ME.. NOW, YOU KNOW TOO MUCH!
RICO! COME IN HERE!
I WANT TO INTRODUCE...
HE'S WISTER.. THE MAN I SUPPOSEDLY KILLED IN SWEET-GRASS!
I SHOT HIM WITH THAT GUN!
QUICKLY, WOMAN... SHOOT!
LUCY THORPE FIRED AT POINTBLANK RANGE...
YOU FOOL!
BLAM!
THIS WAS NO TIME FOR CHIVALRY! BILL BONNEY SLAMMED INTO THE BADLANDS QUEEN... AS RICO-WISTER COCKED HIS DEADLY COLT AND WAITED FOR A CHANCE TO KILL BILLY THE KID IN COLD BLOOD
KILL HIM, WISTER... GET HI... UNGH!
ROLL AWAY FROM HIM, LUCY! ONE BULLET BETWEEN THE EYES WILL STOP BONNEY!

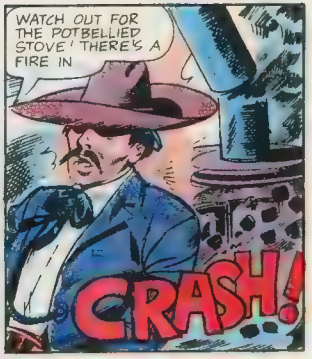

ONCE MORE, LIKE THE DAY IN SWEETGRASS, BILLY THE KID FIRED AT RICO-WISTER... AND THE KILLER DIDN'T DIE! HE LAUGHED AND FIRED BACK...MISSING...
FIRING BLANKS AGAIN...
BANG!

HERE, HOMBRE... CATCH!
BLAM!


MEN ARE SUCH BUMBLING IDIOTS! I'VE GOT TO DO EVERYTHING MYSELF!
I'LL DO THE JOB BY HAND THIS TIME, BUSTER!
THUD
BLAM!

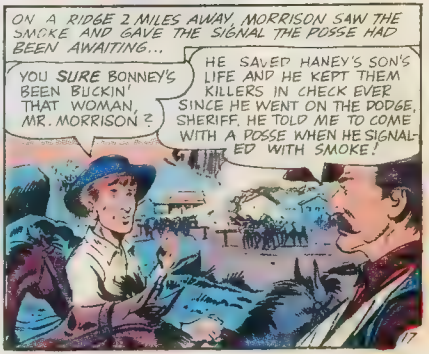

THE STUNNED OWLHOOTERS IN THE BAR DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! BILLY THE KID HAD BEEN THEIR STRAW BOSS... SHOULD THEY BEND A COLT BARREL OVER HIS HEAD OR THE GUNMAN CALLED WISTER WHEN HE SHAVED RICO WHEN HE DIDN'T!
GIT BACK...LET 'EM KILL EACH OTHER F'ALL I CARE!
I'M PUTTIN' MY DINERO ON BONNEY!
CRASH!

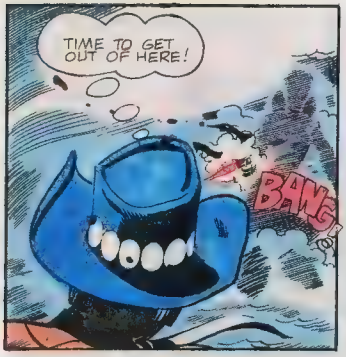

THE SHOWDOWN WAS NEAR. LUCY THORPE WAS ON HER FEET WITH THE DEADLY .32 S&W REVOLVER IN HER DAINTY AND SKILLED HAND!
ALL RIGHT, BONNEY... STOP IT!
I'VE GOT A FEW SECONDS...NO MORE!
SOK!


WATCH OUT FOR THE POTBELLIED STOVE! THERE'S A FIRE IN
CRASH!

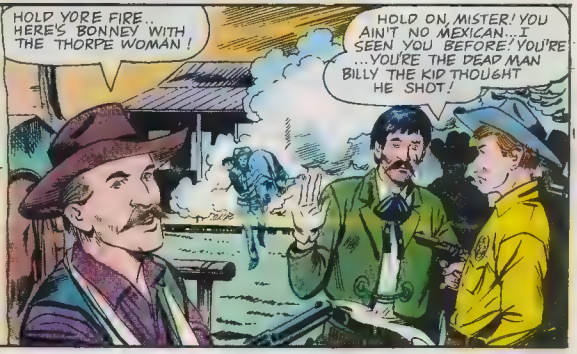
KILL BONNEY. THIS PLACE'LL BURN DOWN IF WE DON'T FINISH HIM OFF IN A HURRY!
DEAD OR ALIVE, THE DODGER SAID BUT DEAD IS BETTER!

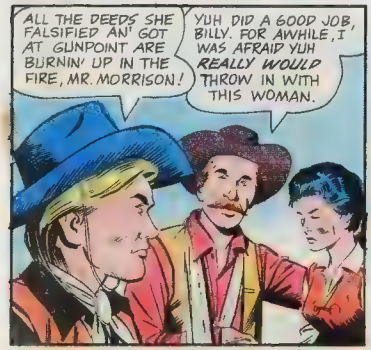
THIS IS SMOKEY ENOUGH MORRISON'LL SEE IT! SHE'S DONE FOR NOW!


ON A RIDGE 2 MILES AWAY, MORRISON SAW THE SMOKE AND GAVE THE SIGNAL THE POSSE HAD BEEN AWAITING...
YOU SURE BONNEY'S BEEN BUCKIN' THAT WOMAN, MR. MORRISON?
HE SAVED HANEY'S SON'S LIFE AND HE KEPT THEM KILLERS IN CHECK EVER SINCE HE WENT ON THE DODGE, SHERIFF. HE TOLD ME TO COME WITH A POSSE WHEN HE SIGNALED WITH SMOKE!



THUS, THE DREAMS OF AN EMPIRE ENDED THE BADLANDS QUEEN ALMOST DEAD FROM SMOKE POISONING... BILLY THE KID, SHE ALMOST LIED TO THE GALLOWS, SAVING HER LIFE


HOLD YORE FIRE.. HERE'S BONNEY WITH THE THORPE WOMAN!
HOLD ON, MISTER! YOU AIN'T NO MEXICAN... I SEEN YOU BEFORE! YOU'RE ...YOU'RE THE DEAD MAN BILLY THE KID THOUGHT HE SHOT!


ALL THE DEEDS SHE FALSIFIED AN' GOT AT GUNPOINT ARE BURNIN' UP IN THE FIRE, MR. MORRISON!
YUH DID A GOOD JOB, BILLY. FOR AWHILE, I WAS AFRAID YUH *REALLY WOULD* THROW IN WITH THIS WOMAN.

I ALMOST DID, MR MORRISON... GLAD I CHANGED MY MIND... SHE LOOKS A HEAP OLDER NOW THAN SHE ALWAYS DID WHEN SHE HAD ON PAINT AN' POWDER!
WHAT A ROTTEN THING TO SAY!
END

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RIVER PIRATES!

DON'T LEAVE NONE OF 'EM ALIVE!

YOU'LL BE TAKIN' THE WIND OUT OF NOBODY'S SAILS, BUCKO!

(FROM THE LETTERS OF SHAWN O'MEARA TO HIS FATHER SEAMUS O'MEARA)

: "Like a horde of rats they came - Savage, ruthless, intent on PLUNDER! There were ten of them, and only four of us, not counting our lovely lady passenger! Just the sort of odds a son of IRELAND, meaning me - SHAWN O'MEARA - finds - let's say - INTERESTING!"

AN' AS FOR YOUR FRIEND WITH THE POPGUN ...WHERE I COME FROM ...IT'S BAD MANNERS TO GO MAKIN' LOUD NOISES!

. WE SETTLE OUR DISAGREEMENTS WITH SHILLELAGHS LIKE THIS! QUIETER Y'KNOW - AND MORE GENTLEMANLY!
OHHH
WHOK
* FOR THE BENEFIT OF YOU NON-IRISHMEN OUT THERE, A SHILLELAGH IS A CLUB MADE OF GOOD IRISH OAK - MUCH FAVORED AS A MEANS OF TEACHING MANNERS TO CHURLISH ADULTS!...SON-OF-THE-OLD-SOD, SERGIUS.
PUT 'EM TO SLEEP..!
THONK
"It's my sad duty to record that I then lay, down on the job! went right to sleep, I did - and while I was resting - I began to dream...."
"...OR rather REMEMBER! There I was again, back on the dock at DUBLIN talking to my Dad!"
"Six months later, I found myself in the town Yankees call ST. LOUIS speaking to the captain of a flatboat."
NOW.. I'LL NOT BE TALKED OUT OF MAKING THIS JOURNEY TO AMERICA! FOOLISH IT MAY BE - BUT I'VE GOT TO SEE IT!
TURRIBLE PLACE! FULL OF SAVAGES! TAKE MY OLD SHILLELAGH WITH YOU - SETTLED MANY AN ARGUMENT AT PADDY'S PUB - IT HAS!
SHORE, RED, YEW C'N COME WITH US DOWN RIVER TO CAIRO - IF'N YER WILLING TO WORK FER YER KEEP, THAT IS!
NO O'MEARA HAS BEEN SCARED OF LABORIN' YET, MY FRIEND! YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A PASSENGER!

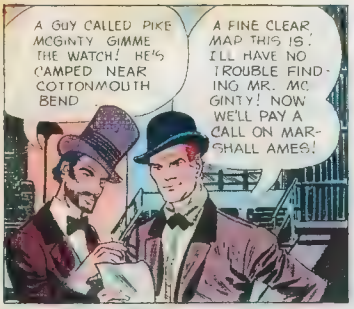
WHEN THE MAN SAID WORK HE WAS PUTTING IT MILDLY! AT TIMES, I FELT IT WOULD'VE BEEN EAISIER TO GET OFF AND CARRY THE BOAT!
I SEE NOW WHY THEY CALL THIS OLD MAN RIVER! IF I HAD TO MAKE THIS TRIP EVERY DAY I'D AGE A BIT MYSELF!
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO HERE IN AMERICA, RED?
HAVEN'T DECIDED YET! I MIGHT EVEN FIND A DECENT JOB-AND SETTLE DOWN!
I KNOW OF A JOB A STRONG MAN LIKE YOURSELF MIGHT BE INTER...
THE LASS DIDN'T GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO FINISH HER SENTENCE FOR AT THAT MOMENT THE RIVER PIRATES FELL ON US
MY SWEET NAP WAS INTERRUPTED THEN, AND AS I CAME TO I HEARD A SINISTER HISSING...
FAITH, MY HEAD FEELS LIKE THE INSIDE OF A PUB THE MORNIN' AFTER ST. PAT'S DAY.. WHAT IN THE NAME OF MY DEAR GRANDMOTHER IS THAT NOISE?
SSSSSSSS
SAINTS PRESERVE US..THE PIRATES LEFT US A POWDER BARREL, ALL LIT UP AND READY TO SEND US TO OUR REWARD! UNLESS I MISJUDGE, I'VE ABOUT FOUR SECONDS TO GET RID OF IT!
POWDER
3

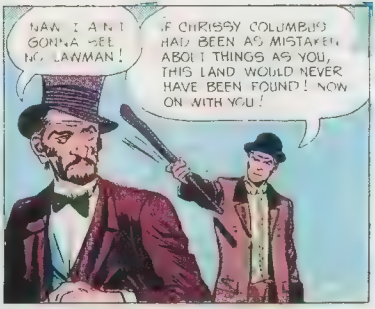
HEAVIER THAN A SINNER'S SOUL, IT IS!
UNLESS I HEAVE IT A SAFE DISTANCE FROM THE BOAT, I MIGHT AS WELL
QUEEN
I...I'M NOT HURT, MR. O'MEARA! BUT-THE OTHERS?
...NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR OUR FRIENDS-SAVE GIVE THEM A CHRISTIAN BURIAL.
A FEW HOURS LATER WE ARRIVED AT OUR DESTINATION - CAIRO, ILLINOIS! AFTER ARRANGING FOR THE RIVERMEN'S LAST RITES, THE LASS MADE A SUGGESTION!
I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY FATHER... ABOUT THAT JOB!
SURE, IF YOUR DAD LOOKS LIKE YOU, HE MUST BE THE BEST LOOKIN' MAN THIS SIDE OF COUNTY CORK!
4.

AND AFTER A SHORT WALK....
YOU DIDN'T TELL ME YOU WERE THE DAUGHTER OF A LAWMAN!
MY FATHER IS MARSHALL BEN AMES...
A TENDER, TOUCHING REUNION FOLLOWED, AND THEN:
I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO MEET SHAWN O'MEARA! HE SAVED MY LIFE!
A PLEASURE, SIR!
FOR ME TOO, FELLOW! BUT WHAT'S THIS ABOUT SAVING MY GIRL?
SWEET SHARON TOLD HIM OF MY MODEST EXPLOITS, AND WHEN SHE WAS THROUGH, THE MARSHALL BEGAN TALKING IN A VOICE THAT REMINDED ME OF A SERMON!
WE GOT PROBLEMS, SON BIG PROBLEMS! THOSE PIRATES RULE THE RIVER BETWEEN HERE AND ST. LOUIS..AND WE AIN'T GOT A PRAYER OF CATCHING THEM! THERE'S JUST TOO MANY PLACES TO HIDE!
AN' YOU'RE ASKIN' ME TO GO CHASIN' AFTER THEM?
I AIN'T AUTHORIZED TO TAKE ON ANY DEPUTIES! BUT THE SETTLERS HAVE GOTTEN TOGETHER SOME MONEY...THEY'RE OFFERING FROM A HUNDRED TO A THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR EACH OF THEM SKUNKS THAT'S BROUGHT IN... DEAD OR ALIVE!
I.... DUNNO...TAKIN' MONEY FOR HUNTIN' MEN! SEEMS LIKE A SLIMEY THING TO DO!
SOMEONE HAS TO DO IT- YOU SAW WHAT KIND OF BEASTS THEY ARE....
"... AND PREYING ON BOATS IS ONLY A TINY PART OF THEIR CRIMES! THEY ATTACK FARMERS AND FISHERMEN... BURN THEIR HOMES... PILLAGE, MURDER - NOTHING IS BEYOND THEM!"
5.

'TIS A GOOD CASE YOU MAKE LASS.. ONE I'LL HAVE TO BE GIVING SOME THOUGHT TO! I'LL SLEEP ON IT AN' LET YOU KNOW TOMORROW WHAT I DECIDE!
UNTIL TOMORROW, MR. O'MEARA!
I STEPPED INTO THE COOL NIGHT AIR- THINKIN' I'D FIND A WEE BITE TO EAT...
WONDER WHAT THE HOUR IS?
MY WATCH! IT'S GONE! THE PIRATES MUST'VE SNITCHED IT!
PARDON ME, SIR, COULD YOU BE TELLIN' ME WHAT THE TIME IS?
IT'S SEVEN THIRTY!
BEGORRAH! 'TIS MY TIMEPIECE HE'S USIN'!
A WORD WITH YOU, TOAD FACE!
I AIN'T INTERESTED IN TALKIN'!
I DON'T TALK - I HITS!
SO YOU DO...WITH ALL THE STING OF A SICKLY MOSQUITO!
6.

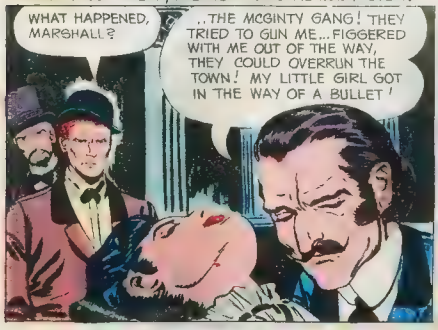
IN DUBLIN, 'TIS CONSIDERED WORSE TO LEAVE IN THE MIDDLE OF A BRAWL THAN TO LEAVE IN THE MIDDLE OF CHURCH SERVICES!
IT APPEARS I'VE CROSSED THE SEA FOR NO REASON OTHER THAN TO TEACH SOME AMERICANS MANNERS!
I'LL SLICE YOU INTO CATFISH BAIT!
WITH THAT WEE NAIL FILE? NOT LIKELY LAD!
... NOW.. WHO GAVE YOU MY WATCH, AND WHERE IS HE HIDING? TELL ME, BUCKO, OR I'LL USE YOUR UGLY HEAD TO DIG A HOLE CLEAR TO CHINA!
AW-AW-AW AWRIGHT! L-L-LEMME UP AN' I-I-I I'LL DRAW A M-MAP!
BONG
7.


A GUY CALLED PIKE MCGINTY GIMME THE WATCH! HE'S CAMPED NEAR COTTONMOUTH BEND
A FINE CLEAR MAP THIS IS! I'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE FINDING MR. MCGINTY! NOW WE'LL PAY A CALL ON MARSHALL AMES!


NAW, I AIN'T GONNA SEE NO LAWMAN!
IF CHRISSY COLUMBUS HAD BEEN AS MISTAKEN ABOUT THINGS AS YOU, THIS LAND WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN FOUND! NOW ON WITH YOU!

THEN AS WE WERE STROLLING TOWARD THE MARSHALL'S OFFICE

WHEN I GOT THERE, THE FIGHT WAS ALREADY OVER.


WHAT HAPPENED, MARSHALL?
..THE MCGINTY GANG! THEY TRIED TO GUN ME...FIGGERED WITH ME OUT OF THE WAY, THEY COULD OVERRUN THE TOWN! MY LITTLE GIRL GOT IN THE WAY OF A BULLET!

THAT MAKES UP MY MIND FOR ME, MARSHALL! I'M A 'CEPTING YOUR OFFER - AN' IT SO HAPPENS I KNOW JUST WHERE TO LOOK FOR THOSE SNAKES!
I'LL HELP ALL I CAN.. STARTING WITH THIS - THE BEST GUN I GOT!
I DON'T HOLD WITH FIREARMS MUCH, BUT IT COULD PROVE USEFUL!
DO YOU HAVE A PICTURE OF THIS McGINTY BOZO?
RIGHT HERE, SON! YOU WON'T HAVE TO LOOK VERY HARD....
..'CAUSE IT AIN'T AN EASY FACE TO FORGET!
WANTED
DEAD OR
I'LL BE GOING, MARSHALL! AN' I WON'T BE COMIN' BACK 'TILL McGINTY'S CRIMINAL DAYS ARE OVER - ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!
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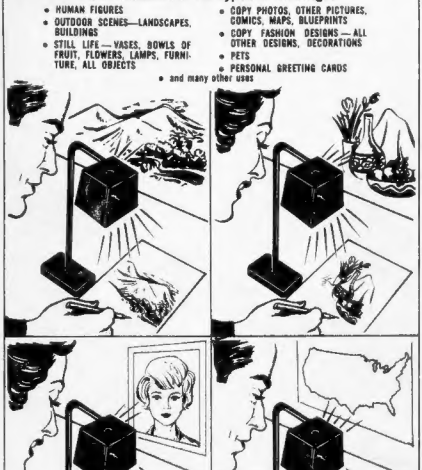

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